



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (608) 266-0610

Speaker's Task Force on Urban Education Releases Final Report

Madison...Task Force Chair Rep. Jessie Rodriguez announced the final recommendations of the Speaker's Task Force on Urban Education. The bipartisan Assembly committee was charged with addressing specific needs in urban schools including solutions to improve educational outcomes, teacher recruitment and retention, and below-average academic performance. The task force held five public hearings and toured schools in six urban school districts: Madison, Racine, Kenosha, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Eau Claire.

"We all want our children to succeed in the classroom, graduate and be prepared for the next chapter in their lives," said Rep. Rodriguez. "The task force learned firsthand what's working in our urban schools districts and what's not. Our recommendations come directly from those on the front lines educating students."

After receiving input from school leaders, parents and stakeholders over the last ten months, the task force has 12 recommendations for Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester).

- Reevaluate the Peer Review Mentor Grant Program
- Streamline License Renewal Process
- Encourage Teacher Preparatory Programs to Provide Education in Teaching in Urban Settings and More Reading Instruction Training
- Clarify the Statutory Definitions of Truancy and Habitual Truant
- Expand Access to Mental Health Care in Schools through Medicaid Program Reimbursement
- Explore Options to Increase Communication about a Student's Mental Health between Doctors and Mental Health Professionals
- Review Transfer Programs between Technical Colleges and UW System
- Review State Funding for Summer School
- Streamline Reporting of Pupil Nondiscrimination Data
- Provide Funding for Interim Assessments and Academic Interventions
- Evaluate Acceptance of ACT Test Scores Timeframe for 11th Grade Students
- Review State Funding for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten and Explore Additional Options for Investing in Early Childhood Education

The recommendations will now be reviewed by the speaker and may be brought forth next session in legislation or addressed in the biennial budget.

"These recommendations should be seen as a reflection of our commitment to improve student outcomes in urban schools," said Rep. Rodriguez. "I personally want to thank the district officials, principals and teachers for their cooperation and thank the members for sharing their passion for education."

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